

JUNE / JULY 2018

MEITHEAM / IÚIL 2018

SCÉAL ÉILE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN



Chair's Message



A Chairde,

Congratulations to Michael Riemer who received a Service Award at the recent North American Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann Convention in Chicago. We are so grateful for Michael's hard work and dedication to our Branch over the years. He's not going anywhere, he will continue to teach dance classes and coordinate the music for our events.

With our 2020 Convention planning in full swing people have asked "What takes place at the Comhaltas Convention?" I will try to summarize the events that normally take place.

The weekend starts on Thursday night with a "Welcome Céili" featuring live music from 8pm to Midnight. Regional and Provincial meetings for Branch Delegates are held on Friday morning and early afternoon. The various workshops start on Friday afternoon. They include Set Dancing, Musical Instruments, Irish Language, Sean Nós Dancing, Céili Dancing, Jive and Song/Storytelling. There may also be a Lecture or two with guest speakers. Workshops continue on Saturday and perhaps one or two on Sunday. After the workshops on Friday night there is usually a Céili that ends at midnight.

The host branch typically offers a guided tour of the local area on Friday from early morning to late afternoon. The participants are back at the hotel in time for the evening Céilí. We are planning on offering a tour of San Francisco. Saturday evening is the highlight of the weekend and begins with the presentation of Service Awards, followed by the banquet, which features live entertainment, and culminates with a "Céilí Mór" that ends around midnight.

There is late night set dancing from Midnight until approx. 3am on Friday and Saturday nights. Sunday morning there is Mass, followed by the final workshops of the weekend. There is a "Farewell Céilí" in the afternoon which ends around 4pm. The weekend officially ends there but unofficially music sessions continue late Sunday night.

Throughout the weekend impromptu Music Sessions are held in various public areas within the Hotel. Sessions take place anywhere people can gather, pull up a few chairs and start playing their instruments. Anyone is welcome to join in and play, sing or recite a poem. Children, teenagers and young adults are especially welcome and encouraged to be part of the session. The Marriott Hotel by the Airport, where our 2020 Convention will be held, has the added bonus of having lots of outdoor seating areas with breathtaking views of the airport and the bay. I can just imagine a rousing session taking place there, right by the waterfront, the airport in the background, with music and song in full swing.

Convention weekend is filled with almost non-stop music, song, dance and, just as important, laughter. It's wonderful to see people from all over the world coming together and enjoying themselves participating in events that are so much a part of our heritage.

Our 2020 Convention in San Francisco certainly will be an amazing and memorable experience! We hope that you will join us. Bring the family and enjoy the craic and camaraderie that is sure to abound.

Slán,
Josephine Brennan



FOUNDED IN 1951, COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN IS IRELAND'S PREMIERE CULTURAL MOVEMENT. WHEN YOU JOIN COMHALTAS, YOU JOIN PEOPLE IN MORE THAN 400 BRANCHES WORLDWIDE IN SUPPORT OF THE TRADITIONAL IRISH ARTS OF MUSIC, DANCE AND LANGUAGE. WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. PLEASE CONTACT THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY FOR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION OR VISIT US ON THE WEB AT [HTTP://SF.CCEWEST.ORG](http://sf.ccewest.org)



Song and Storytelling



The next Song and Storytelling Seisiún will be hosted on June 1st by Kemmeo Parr
3393 Kiwanis Street
Oakland, CA 94602
510-306-7624
kp@photographybykemmeo.com

The July Seisiún is on the 6th, the host is Susan Keith

765 San Pierre Way
Mountain View, CA 94043
(650) 391-5542
susanmaria.keith@gmail.com

In August there is no seisiún.

Contact Michael Jones for info about seisiúns at mfj@ieee.org. Seisiúns start at 7:30pm.



Special Events



Comhaltas and the Irish Consulate in San Francisco are sponsoring a Children's Music, Dance and Irish Language Workshop at the United Irish Cultural Center on Sunday, June 10th from 3pm to 6pm.

Cost: \$5/one child, \$10/family (more than one child). Reservation deadline is Friday, June 1st. For more information, contact Josephine Brogan at 415-264-8856 or josephinebrogan@yahoo.com. See flyer attached.



Member News



For sale - a pair of gently used Capezio womans size 6 pair of black dance shoes. \$90 new. Owner would like to sell. Sale to go as donation to Comhaltas. Contact Mary McDonagh at cladaghdancer@gmail.com.

Thinking about you Steve McEntee and hope you are feeling much better soon.

We wish a speedy and complete healing to our good friend, Frank Rooney as he recovers from surgery and prepares for retirement. Many of us remember Frank as our savior some years ago when attendance and music at our ceilis were at a very low point. Frank would appear with his faithful accordion to play and sing for us through the evening. Frank, Lew Milligan and Barb Southworth entertained at many a party and were a mainstay of our St. Patrick's Day parade float. The construction of "Reidy's Kitchen" - a lifesize replica of a true Irish kitchen for one of our parade floats was the brainchild of Frank Rooney. It was subsequently used as the back-drop for plays at events at the UICC. Get well, Frank, and all the very best!!



Events each Month



Comhaltas Night with Live Irish Music - CCÉ typically hosts a night of set dancing at the UICC on the third Saturday of the month from 7:30pm to 11pm. For June the event will on the 16th, in July we will meet on the 21st. Contact: Michael Riemer at riemer@ce.berkeley.edu.

San Francisco - On Thursdays, CCÉ hosts set dancing classes at the UICC starting at 7:30pm followed by more dancing at the Plough & Stars until 11:30pm -- except for the first Thursday of the month when there is no class, just dancing at the Plough & Stars from 8-11pm. \$5 donation suggested. Contact: Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.

South Bay/Peninsula - Tuesday night set dancing (with a smidgen of céilí style) at Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale (upstairs); 187 S. Murphy Avenue between Evelyn and Washington Avenues. It is every Tuesday (except 3rd Tues. of the month); 8-10pm; **Changes for June/July -- There will be dancing June 19th but no dancing on June 5th or July 3rd.** Suggested donation is \$7. Mostly live bands. Contact: Michael Murphy at 415-999-6062 or irishboogieman0@gmail.com.

North Bay - Mary McDonagh and Mícheál Minihane teach set dancing on the second and fourth Fridays of the month at Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo from 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class. Mary and Mícheál also teach at the Redwood Cafe in Cotati. Contact: Mary McDonagh at cladaghdancer@gmail.com or Mícheál Minihane michealminihane@yahoo.com.

East Bay - Starry Plough in Berkeley hosts céilí dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker at rinnce.mor@gmail.com.

See calendar page for address, phone number and web page for all venues.



Irish Language Class



Please contact Josephine Brogan at josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856 for information on the next 8 week class to be held at the United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco. Registration in advance is required.



Branch Meetings



CCÉ Cooley-Keegan branch meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, 7:30pm at the UICC. Upcoming meeting: June 5th and September 11th. No July or August meetings. All members are encouraged to attend.

For further information, contact Maureen Callanan mcallanan2354@gmail.com.



Calling all Grant Writers



Do you have any experience writing grants or would you like to help?

We have received notifications of grants that we may qualify for to benefit either branch activities or our upcoming 2020 convention.

WE NEED HELP APPLYING.

This work is much easier when it is shared. Please contact Josephine Brogan at Josephinebrogan@yahoo.com or 415-264-8856.



Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta



The 20th Annual Irish Language Immersion Weekend, Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta takes place in San Francisco September 28th - 30th, 2018

Four levels, intensive tutorials that focus on spoken language and increasing fluency taught by top caliber native Irish speaking teachers. There will be a children's class as well. Meals and snacks provided. Music and song seisiúin each evening.

Venue: United Irish Cultural Center, San Francisco. For more information and enrollment, email Seán Séamus at LarkinMap@gmail.com or 415-299-0850. See attached flyer.



2020 Convention Meetings



Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of the month, 7pm at the UICC. Upcoming meeting dates: June 19th and July 17th.

Convention dates: April 16th through 19th, 2020. You need not attend these meeting in order to be part of the planning.

Contact any of the Cooley-Keegan board members if you'd like to get involved in what is going to be an incredible and memorable event!

<https://www.cceconvention2020.com>

For more information contact Maureen Callanan: mcallanan2354@gmail.com.



Special Events



The San Francisco Cooley Keegan Branch of Comhaltas and the United Irish Cultural Center in San Francisco co-sponsored the Helena Byrne Irish storyteller and singer show on Friday, May 18th at the United Irish Cultural Center.

Helena comes from Kilkenny originally and lives in Dublin, Ireland now. It was her first West Coast Tour. It was a wonderful show with over 85 people in attendance. Helena sang some beautiful songs, like the Spinning Wheel. She had us sitting on the edge of our seats telling incredible stories of Irish emigration, the Great Famine, traveling on the Titanic and John F. Kennedy's visit to Ireland.

She also told stories about the fairies and the banshee, which were handed down to her by her Grandfather. A great evening was had by all.



CCÉ 2018 Membership



If you are not already a member, please consider joining CCÉ. Details below. We are a volunteer organization and welcome your participation.

Our Membership runs from January 1st to December 31st.

Single Membership: \$40.00

Multi-Membership: \$50.00 (2 or more in household or family)

Here are ways you can renew:

- Renew online through our website and remit payment through PayPal: sf.ccewest.org
- Renew online through our website and send your check to our PO Box (We do NOT bill).
- Complete your membership form and either give it with your check or cash to Josephine Brogan at set dancing or mail it with your check to our PO Box.

If you have any questions, please contact Joannie at 415-664-6579 or joannieoleary@msn.com; Or talk with Josephine at dancing. Thank you for your support.

CCÉ Membership, Attn: Joannie O'Leary, P O Box 16244, San Francisco, CA 94116



CCÉ 2018 Convention



The Chole Family (Mike, Kell and son Rory) are to be congratulated for providing another fun-filled weekend of music, song and dance at the 2018 Annual Comhaltas Convention in Chicago in April.

Old acquaintances were renewed and many new ones made as we danced the day and night away and witnessed some lovely music sessions. Our special “farewell dinner” on Sunday night was filled with song, chats, laughter and a great meal. While “what happens in Chicago stays in Chicago”, the convention can be full of surprises! For some, a break from the whirlwind music and dance is a trip to the sauna, back to the dance floor, back to the hot tub and back for late night dancing...all without missing a step!



San Francisco always has one of the larger groups at CCÉ Conventions



Director General of Comhaltas, Labhrás Ó Murchú and CCE President, Ann Finnegan presenting the prestigious Service Award to our own Michael Riemer; accepting on behalf of the Phoenix branch recipient is their Chair, Mary Hill-Connor.



CCÉ 2018 Convention



A long weekend filled with dancing, music and fun!!



Moe Murphy (right) pondering the smiles and energy of Martin Giles, Mícheál Miniáne, Cyndie Holmes and Maureen Brady after late night dancing at 3AM!



Josephine Brogan, Fr. Mick Madigan (Chicago), Joannie O'Leary and Moe Murphy waiting to kick up their heels at the next set dance workshop.



Lew Milligan enjoying the craic with convention host, Mike Chole, and Jim Thornton (Chicago).



Morgan Kulla studies the workshop schedule while Susan Keith, Cathy Jones and Roseann McFadden-Clavelli help Cathy celebrate her 89th birthday at the Convention.



CCÉ has a facebook group where we can share photos, ask questions and generally discuss all things Irish music and dance. In the search field at the top of your facebook page enter **Cooley-Keegan Branch**, select it from the list of choices and join the group.

Or, you can enter the following URL:

facebook.com/groups/316504905030686



Another online group where events are planned is meetup.com at the following URL:

meetup.com/irishdance

Mertheam 2018

DÉ DOMHNAIGH SUNDAY	DÉ LUAN MONDAY	DÉ MÁIRT TUESDAY	DÉ CÉADAOIN WEDNESDAY	DÉARDAOIN THURSDAY	DÉ h-Aoine FRIDAY	DÉ SATHAIRN SATURDAY
May 27 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	28 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	29 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	30	31 <u>Set Dancing</u> Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	Jun 1 <u>Song Seisiún</u> Kemmeo Parr Oakland 510-306-7624	2
3 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	4 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	5 <u>CCÉ Meeting</u> UICC 7:30pm <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	6 <u>Set Dancing</u> Redwood Cafe Cotati	7 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Crooked Road	8 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	9
10 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars <u>Children's Workshop</u> UICC 3-6pm	11 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	12 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale- <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	13	14 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band	15	16 <u>Comhaltas Night</u> UICC 7.30-11pm w/ live music
17 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	18 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	19 <u>2020 Convention Meeting</u> UICC 7pm <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale- <u>Seisiún</u> Plough and Stars	20 <u>Set Dancing</u> Redwood Cafe Cotati	21 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House	22 <u>Set Dancing</u> Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo	23
24 <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	25 <u>Céilí dancing</u> Starry Plough	26 <u>Set Dancing</u> Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale <u>Seisiún</u> - Plough and Stars	27	28 <u>Set Dancing</u> UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band	29	30



CHAIR: JOSEPHINE BRENNAN (CCE_CHAIR@CCEWEST.ORG)
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 YOUTH OFFICER: CAOIMHE LYONS

July 2018

De Domhnaigh SUNDAY	De Luan MONDAY	De Mairt TUESDAY	De Céadaoin WEDNESDAY	Deardaoin THURSDAY	De h-Aoine FRIDAY	De Sathairn SATURDAY
Seisiún - Plough and Stars Jul 1	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 2	CCÉ Meeting UICC 7:30pm Seisiún Plough and Stars 3	Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati 4	Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band 5	Song Seisiún Susan Keith 765 San Pierre Way Mountain View (650) 391-5542 6	7
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 8	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 9	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale Seisiún Plough and Stars 10	11	Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ The Crooked Road 12	Set Dancing Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo 13	14
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 15	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 16	2020 Convention Meeting UICC 7pm Seisiún Plough and Stars 17	Set Dancing Redwood Cafe Cotati 18	Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Emperor Norton Céilí Band 19	20	Comhaltas Night UICC 7-.30 -11pm w/ live music 21
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 22	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 23	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyvale Seisiún Plough and Stars 24	25	Set Dancing UICC for class Plough & Stars w/ Topsy House 26	Set Dancing Brosnan Dance Studio San Anselmo 27	28
Seisiún - Plough and Stars 29	Céilí dancing Starry Plough 30	Set Dancing Lilly Mac's, Sunnyval Seisiún - Plough and Stars 31	Aug 1	Set Dancing Plough & Stars w/ Shannon Céilí Band 2	3	4

Brosnan School of Irish Dance - 11 Belle Avenue, Suite B, San Anselmo, CA 94960 brosnanschool.com

Lilly Mac's - 187 S. Murphy Ave, Sunnyvale (between Washington and Evelyn Avenues) 408-732-0200 lillymacs.com

Plough and Stars - 116 Clement Ave. (Between 2nd and 3rd), San Francisco, 415-751-1122 theploughandstars.com

Redwood Cafe - 8240 Old Redwood Hwy, Cotati CA 94931 707-795-7868 redwoodcafe.com

UICC - United Irish Cultural Center - 2700 45th Ave. (At Sloat Blvd.), San Francisco, 415-661-2700 irishcentersf.org

Starry Plough - 3101 Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley 510-841-2082 starryploughpub.com

You can also visit the following website for events:

San Francisco CCÉ - Cooley-Keegan Branch - sf.ccewest.org



Ard-Chonsalacht na hÉireann
Consulate General of Ireland

*Sponsored by San Francisco's Cooley Keegan branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann
and the Consulate General of Ireland*

Children's Introduction to:

- Tin whistle
- Fiddle
- Céilí dancing
- Irish language

Try something new! Learn the basics of tin whistle and fiddle --
INSTRUMENTS PROVIDED. Experience the great fun and joy of céilí
dancing! Impress your friends and family by learning to speak a little
Irish! Participate in one, several or all these classes, taught by local,
experienced teachers. **Appropriate for ages 5 and up.** RSVP by June
1st to reserve your spot.

Who: Children/youth age 5 and up

When: Sunday, June 10, 2018 ~ 3:00 – 6:00pm

Where: United Irish Cultural Center, St. Francis Room
2700 – 45th Avenue, San Francisco

Cost: \$5/one child \$10/family (more than one child)

**To RSVP or for more information: (415) 264-8856 or
josephinebrogan@yahoo.com**

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann promotes the music, song, dance and language of Ireland around the
world. Visit our website: www.sf.ccewest.org

San Francisco Bay Area

20th Annual

SEPT 28-30

Gaeilge

2018

Irish Language Immersion

Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta

The 20th Annual Irish Language Immersion Weekend, Deireadh Seachtaine Gaeltachta, takes place in San Francisco on September 28 – 30, 2018

Four levels, intensive tutorials that focus on spoken language and increasing fluency taught by top caliber native Irish speaking teachers and a kids class as well.

Special Saturday workshops take place during the last class period of the day, providing a relaxing, entertaining and different way to enjoy learning Irish. Meals and snacks provided, and sessions take place each evening with Irish music, songs, poetry, stories – and some dancing.

Level 1 (no Irish, or a smidgin), beginners, and those who may have made a start already, but are still learning beginner basics.

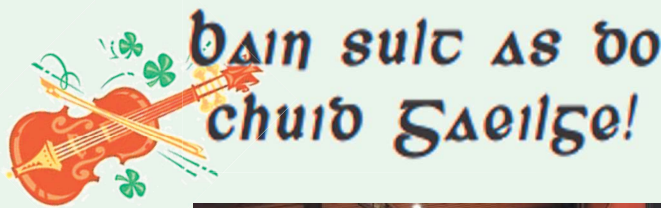
Level 2 Leibhéal 2 (Iag), for intermediate learners, who've studied Irish enough to know the basics reasonably well, can participate in a very simple communications, and want to increase their skills.

Level 3 Leibhéal 3 (sásúil), for higher intermediate students who may understand or read a good bit of Irish, yet lack practice with hearing or speaking Irish, and seek confidence to make the leap into more conversation.

Leibhéal 4 (maith) do dhaoine ar mhaith leo snas a chur ar a gcuid Gaeilge. Déanfar staidéar ar fhoclóir nua-aimseartha, saibhreas na teanga, litríocht, filíocht, béaloideas agus an saol chomh-aimseartha.

Beidh Ray Mac Mánaís againn mar múinteoir arís!

Classes take place at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco. Email Seán Séamus Larkin larkinmaps@gmail.com for more info.



or CHECK \$420 J Larkin 2 Admiral Dr #475 Emeryville CA 94608 ..or..





John Larkin
Emeryville, CA

<https://www.paypal.me/JLarkin826>



Set Dancing



Mondays:

- Starry Plough in Berkeley: Céilí dancing on Mondays. Lessons from 7-9pm and dancing to live music from 9-11pm. Contact: John Slaymaker (rinnce.mor@gmail.com)

Tuesdays:

- Lilly Mac's in Sunnyvale (except for the 3rd Tuesday). Lessons: 7:30pm; Dance to live music 8-10pm. \$7 suggested to support the live music. Contact: Michael Murphy (415-999-6062)

Special Events:

- Redwood Cafe in Cotati.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Mícheál Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)

1st Thursday: Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 8pm. Music by the Shannon Céilí Band. \$5 suggested to support the live music.

2nd through last Thursdays:

- Lessons at the United Irish Cultural Center (UICC) in San Francisco at 7:30pm in the bar area. Taped music:
- Plough and Stars in San Francisco at 9:30pm.
Live traditional music featuring Topsy House, Emperor Norton Céilí Band and other fine bands.
Dancers are encouraged to contribute \$5 to support the live music.

2nd and 4th Fridays:

- Brosnan School of Irish Dance in San Anselmo: From 7-9pm. There is a \$5 donation suggested for this class.
Contact: Mary McDonagh (cladaghdancer@gmail.com), Mícheál Minihane (michealminihane@yahoo.com)



Seisiún



Seisiún: - Sundays and Tuesdays starting at 8:30 at the Plough and Stars, various hosts.

Song and Storytelling Seisiún: Held on the first Friday of each month, See **Song and Storytelling** section for details..

COOLEY-KEEGAN BRANCH OF
COMHALTAS CEOLTÓIRÍ ÉIREANN
P.O. Box 16244
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116